

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment

Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General on the main findings and recommendations of his QCPR progress report and the repositioning of the UN development system

Statement by Ambassador Hyun-joo Oh, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN

10:00 – 12:00, Tuesday, 19 May 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and DCO (Development Coordination Office) for their hard work in the implementation of the UNDS reform.

Korea welcomes the early achievements of the reform and is pleased to see the positive feedback on the ground, as contained in the Secretary-General's report.

Recognizing the RC system as the centerpiece of ongoing reform as well as its increased importance during the current pandemic, Korea has committed itself to a voluntary contribution this year to the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the new RC system and announced our pledge to the UN COVID-19 Trust Fund last week. We hope that RCs continue to lead UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to offer cohesive system-wide responses.

Mr. Chair, let me briefly highlight three points that are particularly important to my delegation.

First, despite the tremendous challenges posed by COVID-19, the Funds and Programs and other relevant agencies should maintain the momentum towards a full implementation of the reform measures. Better understanding of the RC leadership on the ground, a timely roll-out of UNSDCF (UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework), and a full implementation of the updated MAF (Management and Accountability Framework) would further benefit development activities in the context of COVID-19 and the Decade of Action.

Second, with various funding channels responding to COVID-19 from global system-wide appeals to agency-specific funds, it is important to ensure their complementarity and continue to incentivize inter-agency collaboration and coherence. Also, it would be interesting to know how the RCs partner with stakeholders outside the UN, including IFIs, the private sector, academia, and civil society to mobilize resources and capacities from now until the recovery phase towards a more sustainable and inclusive world.

Lastly, we welcome the Secretary-General's proposals from regional and MCO (Multi-Country Office) reviews to achieve a better use of UN assets and expertise and enhance collaboration among agencies. We look forward to these remaining mandates being fulfilled without delay.

Korea will continue to strongly support the SG's efforts to reposition the UN development system. Thank you very much. /END/